Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/671,197	PATZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Quynh H. Nguyen	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *amendment filed 6/20/07 and supplemental amendment filed 7/24/07*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-8,11,13,15-18,22-23, and 26-27 renumbered as claims 1-18*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

 Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Quynh H. Nguyen

Quynh H. Nguyen
571-272-7489

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William Valance on 08/17/07.

3. Claims 1, 11, 13, 18 and 26 have been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) A communication system for communicating with multiple participating devices, said communication system comprising

a plurality of the participating devices,

a communication line connecting the participating devices with each other, and

one or more respective connection devices for connecting an interface device for communication with a corresponding one of the participating devices indirectly via said communication line, said corresponding participating device being defined as associated with said one or more respective connection devices, said one or more respective connection devices being connected with the communication line;

wherein said one or more respective connection devices are not included in said participating devices and are also not included in said interface device;

wherein said one or more respective connection devices comprise readable means for identification of said corresponding participating device defined as associated with said one or more respective connection devices, wherein said readable means is readable by said interface device connectable to the one or more connection devices; ~~and~~

wherein each of said respective connection devices connects said interface device with said corresponding one of said participating devices associated therewith, but with no others of said participating devices, when said interface device is connected with each of said respective connection devices;

wherein said readable means for identification of said corresponding participating device defined as associated with said one or more respective connection devices is a programmable controller; and

wherein said programmable controller is connectable and readable by means of a separate connecting line provided in said one or more respective connection devices and comprises a memory device for storage of identification information, said programmable controller being programmable during a configuration stage by said interface device.

11. (currently amended) The communication system as defined in claim 1 [[10]], wherein said programmable controller is a microcontroller.

13. (currently amended) The communication system as defined in claim [[12]] 1, wherein said separate connecting line is a separate serial connecting wire.

18. (currently amended) A connection device for connecting an interface device to an associated participating device of a communication system indirectly via a connection line, said communication system comprising multiple participating devices connected by said communication line, wherein said connection device is not part of said participating device and is also not part of said interface device;

wherein said connection device comprises readable means for identification of a corresponding participating device defined as associated with said connection device, said readable means is readable by said interface device connectable to the connection device, and said connection device is connected to said communication line for communication with said corresponding participating device;

~~and~~

wherein each of said respective connection devices connects said interface device with said corresponding one of said participating devices associated therewith, but with no others of said participating devices, when said interface device is connected with each of said respective connection devices;

wherein said readable means for identification of said corresponding participating device defined as associated with said one or more respective connection devices is a programmable controller; and

wherein said programmable controller is connectable and readable by means of a separate connecting line provided in said one or more respective connection devices and comprises a memory device for storage of identification information, said programmable controller being programmable during a configuration stage by said interface device.

26. (currently amended) A method of identifying a participating device of a communication system, wherein said communication system comprises multiple participating devices, a communication line connecting said participating devices with each other and at least one connection device for connecting an interface device for communication with a corresponding one of the participating devices indirectly via the communication line, said corresponding participating device being defined as associated with the at least one connection device and not including said at least one connection device, said at least one connection device being connected with the communication line; wherein the at least one connection device comprises readable means for identification of the corresponding participating device defined as associated with said at least one connection device, ~~devices, wherein~~ said readable means is readable by said interface device connectable to the at least one connection device, said readable means for identification of said corresponding participating device defined as associated with said one or more respective connection devices is a programmable controller, said programmable controller is connectable and readable by means of a separate connecting line provided in said one or more respective connection devices,

said programmable controller comprises a memory device for storage of identification information, and said programmable controller is programmable during a configuration stage by said interface device, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

a) connecting said interface device to said at least one connection device;

b) reading said readable means for identification of the corresponding participating device defined as associated with said at least one connection device; and

c) making a communication connection between the interface device and the corresponding participating device defined as associated with said at least one connection device, said communication connection connecting the interface device with the corresponding participating device indirectly by means of said at least one connection device via the communication line; and.

wherein each of said respective connection devices connects said interface device with said corresponding one of said participating devices associated therewith, but with no others of said participating devices, when said interface device is connected with each of said respective connection devices.

4. Claims 9-10, 12, 14, 19-21, and 28 are cancelled.

Quynh H. Nguyen
QUYNH H. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER